

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 10 and 15 were amended to correct for minor cosmetic and grammar informalities. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,725) in view of Nakashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,650). Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garcia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,725) in view of Nakashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,650), and further in view of Takezawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,392,265). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant claims an information management method comprising generating protection information for protecting the storage area of a recording medium storing a second string of codes recorded by a second coding technique from any recording, editing and erasing operations of a first apparatus. Claim 1 requires that the first apparatus be adapted to handle a first string of codes by a first coding technique and by referring to the first management data stored in a first management data area. The method of claim 1 further requires the step of arranging the protection information in the first management data area as one of said first management data (so that the first apparatus references the protection information). In addition, claim 1 requires protecting the storage area of the medium storing said second string of codes from any recording, editing and erasing operations of said first apparatus, while allowing reproducing operations of said first apparatus, on the basis of said protection information when the medium storing said second string of codes is operated by said first apparatus. The protection information

includes a protection mode for a track on the medium, where the protection mode indicates that the track is prohibited from rewriting.

For example, referring to the recording medium illustrated in Fig. 20 as an illustrative embodiment, the protection information that is generated in accordance with the present invention includes a protection mode (i.e., "Assurance Mode") in the "Track Mode" information associated with each recorded string of codes and stored in the first management ("administrative") data area, where each protection mode is set to reflect that rewriting to the respective track is prohibited. (See Application, at pg. 62 line 11 - pg. 63 line 10, Fig. 20). The protection information may further include setting the available recording area on the medium (or address pointing to the available recording area) used by the first apparatus (as identified in the first management data area) to nil or smaller than the allowable area required by the first apparatus to perform a record operation as taught and claimed by Applicant in claims 3 and 4. (See Application, at pg. 64 line 6 - pg. 65 line 6, Fig. 20).

Garcia is directed to a method and apparatus for making a single CD-ROM disc useable on computers having unrelated operating systems or for multi-media platforms. (See *Garcia*, Abstract). The Examiner asserts that *Garcia* teaches all the limitations of claim 1 except the limitation of the protection information indicating that the protection mode of the track on the medium is prohibited from rewriting. In particular, the Examiner asserts that *Garcia* teaches creating a storage device (CD-ROM) that contains both MAC and PC files so that the storage device can be used by both MAC and PC users, while preventing users of one computer type from accessing files created in the other computer type.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. *Garcia* teaches a method (i.e., implemented by computer program 23) for customizing the directory records associated with MAC files and PC files (after

each file is first formatted in an MS-DOS format as part of the method) in accordance with a standard CD-ROM format so that each type of file may be stored on the same CD-ROM for access by MAC and PC operating systems. (*See Garcia*, Abstract; Col. 2, lines 27; Col. 5, lines 7-49). The MAC files in a CD-ROM created in accordance with the teaching of *Garcia* are still accessible by a PC user, although they not likely useable without an error in appearance or runtime. Similarly, PC files in *Garcia* created CD-ROM are still accessible by a MAC user, despite likely errors in appearance or runtime. Thus, *Garcia* fails to teach or suggest (alone or in combination with *Nakashima* or *Takezawa*) the limitation of “*generating protection information for protecting the storage area of a recording medium storing a second string of codes recorded by a second audio coding technique from any recording, editing and erasing operations of a first apparatus adapted to handle a first string of codes by a first audio coding technique and by referring to first management data stored in a first management data area*” as required by claim 1.

Moreover, *Garcia* actually teaches away from “generating protection information” to protect against “recording, editing and erasing operations of a first apparatus” because CD-ROMs are read only devices that do not require protection information since they are physically structured not to be re-written by either a MAC computer or a PC computer. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to combine the teachings of *Garcia* and *Nakashima*.

Accordingly, for each of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the rejection to claim 1 be withdrawn.

For reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-4, 6-13, and 15-18 are also allowable over *Garcia* et al. in view of *Nakashima* et al. and/or *Takezawa*.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to Account No. 19-3140.

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Respectfully submitted,

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